

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-2004

August 19, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

It has come to my attention that the City of Baltimore, Maryland, will soon submit a proposal for a TIGER II Discretionary Grant to fund the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). The Westport Waterfront TOD will provide a multi-modal network of highway, road, light rail, bike and pedestrian improvements supporting the development of 13,000 jobs and 2,000 housing units, and the redevelopment of vacant industrial property.

The nation's economic recession has significantly impacted Baltimore City, where the unemployment rate has recently climbed to 11%. If awarded these funds, the Westport Waterfront TOD will have a catalytic effect on the region's economy, connecting disadvantaged Marylanders to jobs, amenities, and opportunities while at the same time creating a model for development that restores the Chesapeake Bay's fragile ecosystem.

I would respectfully request that the City of Baltimore's funding application for the Westport Waterfront TOD receive full consideration, in accordance with established policies and procedures.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator